

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-06

FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-07 PM-04 SS-15 TRSE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-15 SAJ-01 ARAE-00 /138 W

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P R 191240Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8762

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 9622

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH ENRG PARM BR GW

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN PUBLIC REACTIONS TO U.S. NUCLEAR POLICIES

1. SUMMARY. THE GOB HAS REMAINED OFFICIALLY SILENT ON THE  
PRESIDENT-ELECT'S NOV 15 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WOULD PURSUE, THROUGH  
NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, THE ABROGATION OF THE SALE OF A REPROCESS

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ING PLANT BY WEST GERMANY TO BRAZIL. UNIDENTIFIED  
OFFICIAL SOURCES, IN THE NEWS BACKGROUNDEERS, PROFESSED THE  
GOB'S "SERENITY"; AND SOME  
THOUGHT US PRESSURES WOULD BIND WEST GERMANY AND BRAZIL  
MORE TIGHTLY. STRONGLY NEGATIVE EDITORIAL REACTION IN TWO  
MAJOR NATIONAL PAPERS LIKENED THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S ATTITUDES  
TO TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S LATIN AMERICAN POLICING POLICIES. WEST  
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GERMAN AMBASSADOR HERE REPORTEDLY SAID WEST

GERMANY WOULD FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT. WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE FRG REJECTED ANY TYPE OF PRESSURES. ONE BRAZILIAN NEWS REPORT LAST WEEK INDICATED THAT THE GOB HAD BEGUN TO PREPARE TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST US PRESSURES, ALTHOUGH THE GOB BELIEVED THEY WOULD BE AIMED PRIMARILY AT WEST GERMANY. NOV. 18 PRESS REPORT SAID PRESIDENT GEISEL HAS TAKEN CHARGE OF THE GOB'S ROLE IN THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS ON NOV. 16 GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENTS IN PLAINS ON NOV. 15. MOST REPORTS SAID THE PRESIDENT-ELECT ANNOUNCED HE WOULD TRY THROUGH NORMAL (ONE PAPER SAID "VIGOROUS") DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO SEEK THE CANCELLATION OF THE SALES OF "NUCLEAR CENTERS" BY WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE TO BRAZIL AND PAKISTAN, RESPECTIVELY. SOME BUT NOT ALL NEWS REPORTS SPECIFIED THE SALE OF REPROCESSING PLANTS AS THE OBJECT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REMARKS. SEVERAL NEWS REPORTS CLAIMED THE PRESIDENT-ELECT SAID HE HAD INFORMATION AVAILABLE THAT ASSURED THE SUCCESS OF HIS INITIATIVE. ONE REPORT CLAIMED THE PRESIDENT-ELECT SAID HE WOULD DEAL WITH NUCLEAR POLICY IN AN UPCOMING MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

3. THE GOB IS KEEPING SILENCE ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT SOURCES ARE CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S COMMENTS AND SAYING THE GOB IS FOLLOWING THE SUBJECT WITH "SERENITY". THESE SOURCES MAKE SEVERAL MAIN POINTS: (A) WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS BRAZIL'S POLITICAL PLEDGE TO PRECEDENT-SETTING IAEA SAFEGUARDS COVERING THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT; (B) THE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS; (C) BRAZIL HAS PEACEFUL INTENTIONS, AND FEARS BY THE PRESIDENT-ELECT THAT BRAZIL WILL DEVELOP NUCLEAR ARMS ARE ENTIRELY UNFOUNDED; (D) BRAZIL HAS A VITAL NEED FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY; (E) BRAZIL IS READY TO RESIST US PRESSURES, WHICH COULD BIND WEST GERMANY AND BRAZIL EVEN CLOSER TOGETHER; (F) US PRESSURES ARE LIKELY TO BE AIMED FIRST AND MAINLY AT WEST GERMANY, WHERE THE US HAS TROOPS STATIONED; SUCH PRESSURES COULD DEMORALIZE THE STRONGEST NATO ALL OF THE US.

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4. "JORNAL DO BRASIL" REPORTED THAT WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR RÖDING SAID HIS COUNTRY WILL KEEP ITS COMMITMENTS IN THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. "JORNAL" QUOTED RÖDING -- INCORRECTLY ACCORDING TO WHAT THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY HAS TOLD US -- THAT (A) U.S. "OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PETROLEUM CRISIS FORCED COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL TO SEARCH FOR NEW ALTERNATIVES IN THE ENERGY FIELD;" AND (B) THE

PRESIDENT-ELECT, WOULD NOT RESORT TO MEANS OF PRESSURE IN ORDER TO CANCEL THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS ALSO STRONGLY NEGATIVE, INCLUDING THAT BY THE PRESTIGIOUS "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO," WHICH IN RECENT MONTHS HAS CRITICIZED THE ECONOMICS OF THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. "O ESTADO" AND "JORNAL DE BRASILIA" STRESSED BRAZIL'S ENERGY NEEDS, THE PROSPECTIVE EXHAUSTION OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC CAPACITY IN THE SOUTH IN THE EIGHTIES AND THE HEAVY DEPENDENCE

ON IMPORTED PETROLEUM. "O ESTADO" SAW THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S ATTITUDE AS INCONSISTENT WITH THAT OF A NATION THAT ALWAYS PROCLAIMS THAT IT ADHERES TO AN HONORS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, AND AS SHOWING THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT LACKS CONFIDENCE IN IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

"O ESTADO" WONDERED WHETHER THE US TODAY CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS THE ROLE OF POLICING ATOMIC ARMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BY THE SAME RATIONALE THAT LED PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT TO POLICE THE CONDUCT OF LATIN AMERICA IN ITS FINANCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"O ESTADO" COMMENTED THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S ATTITUDE DEFINED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS "IMMATURE," AS OPPOSED TO THE DEVELOP "MATURE" COUNTRIES. FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, "O ESTADO" SAID, HAD THE DELICATE MISSION OF MAKING THE US UNDERSTAND THAT HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS HAD OVERTAKEN THE PHASE OF GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY, AND THAT BRAZIL IS A REAL FACTOR OF POWER IN THE WORLD, WHETHER CARTER WANTS IS TO BE OR NOT. AS FOR THE ATOMIC BOMB, "O ESTADO" OBSERVED THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT HAD FORGOTTEN THAT THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO THE BUILDING OF THE BOMB ONLY IN THE VERY FAR FUTURE, AND ONLY IF ITS COSTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH BRAZIL'S DEVELOPMENT NECESSITIES.

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6. THE "JORNAL DE BRASILIA," TAKING A POSITION CLOSE TO THE OFFICIAL ONE, SAID THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE, AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF BRAZIL'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL OPENING TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (READ LESS DEPENDENCE ON THE US).

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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7. BRAZILIAN REACTIONS TO EXPECTED US ACTIONS IN THE NUCLEAR POLICY AREA SURFACED IN A MAJOR PRESS STORY LAST WEEK PRIOR TO THE PRESENT-ELECT'S REMARKS. A NOV. 12 "O ESTADO" STORY QUOTED "GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS" AS SAYING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS A COORDINATING A GOVERNMENT-WIDE EFFORT TO COLLECT INFORMATION AT ITS DISPOSAL IN ORDER TO FACILITATE DECISIONS ON THE STRATEGY IT WOULD ADOPT AGAINST EXPECTED US PRESSURES. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, BRAZIL HAS ASSURED WEST GERMANY THAT IT CAN FULFILL ALL OF THE FINANCIAL TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. THIS GUARANTEES WAS CONSIDERED "VITAL" IN ORDER TO REMOVE A PRETEXT WHICH WEST GERMANY COULD USE TO RENEGE ON THE AGREEMENT. ALSO, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SECTORS HAVE BEEN WARNED OF THE NECESSITY NEITHER TO GIVE ANY DECLARATION NOR TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE USED AS A UNCLASSIFIED

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PRETEXT BY THE STAFF OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT.

8. ACCORDING TO THE NOV. 12 STORY, A FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID:

"REGARDING MATERIAL FOR PROVOCATIONS, WE WILL NOT TAKE THE FIRST STEP. WE HAVE A 'MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING', WE HAVE SPECIAL RELATIONS, EACH OF US HAS ENORMOUS ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WE ARE ACTING TOWARD THE UNITED STATES BASED ON OBJECTIVE DATA. THE BALL IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COURT. WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY OR TO DO. THE INITIATIVE OF THE GAME NOW IS WITH CARTER." (SEPTEL CONTAINS TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY AN UNIDENTIFIED MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY SOURCE.)

9. FRG POSITION. "JORNAL DO BRASIL" ON NOV. 17 REPORTED THAT THE WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, THROUGH SPOKESMAN KLAUS TERFLOTH, SAID IT REJECTED ANY TYPE OF PRESSURES AGAINST THE BRAZILIAN-WEST GERMAN AGREEMENT.

10. PRESIDENT GEISEL'S INVOLVEMENT. PRESIDENT GEISEL ACCORDING TO THE NOV. 18 EDITION OF "O ESTADO," HAS TAKEN PERSONAL CHARGE OF THE GOB'S ROLE IN THE CONTROVERSY ARISING FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S STATEMENT. THE STORY SAID GEISEL TOOK CHARGE IN ORDER TO AVOID NEW MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THIS SUBJECT, WHICH IS CONSIDERED VERY SERIOUS FOR THE FUTURE OF US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS. AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE FROM THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, SAID GEISEL, DESPITE BEING SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE US ELECTIONS, IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S CRITICISMS: GOB IS TRYING TO AVOID, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, GREATER RESENTMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE SOURCE SAID GEISEL HAD GIVEN MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER UEKI INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACT IN RELATION TO THE CONTROVERSY. THE SOURCE COMMENTED ALSO THAT BRAZIL AND WEST GERMANY WOULD BE MAINTAINING CLOSER DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AIMED AT ACCELERATING THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE IN PRACTICE THAT THE AGREEMENT IS IRREVERSIBLE.

11. COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS STUDY NOV. 18 EDITION OF "O ESTADO" REPORTED THAT SEVERAL ACADEMICS HAVE PREPARED A STUDY ON NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION FOR THE CFR REPORTEDLY THE STUDY CONCLUDED THAT BRAZIL COULD (OR WOULD) UNCLASSIFIED

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FABRICATE ATOMIC BOMBS DEPENDING ON THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY ARGENTINA, WHICH IS HUMANLY AND TECHNICALLY ABLE TO PRODUCE THESE ARMS. ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID NOTHING OFFICIALLY, "O ESTADO" QUOTED DIPLOMATIC SPECIALISTS "VERY CLOSE TO OFFICIAL CHANNELS" (READ FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES) AS SAYING THAT: "THE STUDY STARTS WITH AN ERRONEOUS PREMISE AND FOR THIS REASON ONLY CAN REACH RESULTS THAT ARE EQUALLY ERRONEOUS." THE SPECIALISTS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOB DOES NOT PLAN TO FABRICATE NUCLEAR ARMS, AND, MUCH LESS, WOULD IT CONDITION ITS PROGRAM IN THIS FIELD

TO WHAT ARGENTINA CAN OR CANNOT DO. THE SPECIALISTS NOTED BRAZIL'S TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR ARGENTINA. THEY SAID CURRENT RELATIONS HAVE GOOD PERSPECTIVE, AND COMMENTED THAT BRAZIL DOES NOT FEAR ARGENTINA. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT AN EDITORIAL IN BUENOS AIRES' "LA NACION" SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER HAD CALLED FOR BRAZILIAN-ARGENTINE NUCLEAR COOPERATION. THE SPECIALISTS, THE STORY SAID, CLAIMED THE CFR STUDY CONTAINED ONLY TWO CORRECT POINTS -- THE BRAZILIAN PROGRAM HAS AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE SUPPLY OF FUTURE ENERGY NECESSITIES, AND BRAZIL HAS SIGNED THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. "ALL OTHER INFORMATION (IN THE STUDY) LACKS CONSISTENCY."

12. GERMAN INDUSTRY COMMENTS. OFFICIALS OF GERMAN COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN PROGRAM HAVE MADE STRONG COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REMARKS. NOV. 17 EDITION OF "O ESTADO" REPORTED THAT KRAFTWERK UNION (KWU) SOURCES IDENTIFIED " CONCEALED INTERESTS" BEHIND THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REMARKS. IN RIO DE JANEIRO, ACCORDING TO NOV. 18 EDITION OF "O ESTADO", AN ENGINEER FOR STEOG AG (HELMUT VOCKER) SAID "IT IS NOT PROBABLE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO IMPEDE THE FULFILLMENT OF AGREEMENTS CELEBRATED BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS" BECAUSE WASHINGTON WAS INFORMED OF ALL DETAILS BUT PRESENTED NO "LARGE RESTRICTIONS."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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